

This alleged rapist prays with victim

By Ben Charny

STAFF WRITER

Eddie Ray Burns rapes and then prays, police said Monday.

The 21-year-old Oakland resident attacked a woman inside her San Leandro home Friday night and then in a fit of remorse knelt down and offered to pray with her, according to records released Monday.

Burns pleaded innocent Monday to a felony rape charge before San Leandro-Hayward Municipal Judge Gary Picetti. He was in jail Monday in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

"He said he was sorry," Burns' alleged victim told San Leandro police.

The alleged attack began about 11:45 p.m. Friday, while the woman was talking on the telephone with a friend.

Police said the woman knew Burns and let him inside her apartment when he knocked on the door, and continued with her telephone conversation.

Police said Burns began touching her and disconnected the telephone.

During the alleged rape, Burns put a pillow over the woman's face, and said, "I'm gonna make your life miserable," according to her statement to police.

The woman's 7-year-old son was inside the apartment at the time. He heard his mother's screams and asked if everything was all right, a witness said.

The woman said she was hit in the face twice and told to tell the boy to go back to bed, reports released Monday show.

Burns ran from the home, first taking time to kneel down and ask the woman to pray with him, according to police reports. He was arrested on suspicion of rape several hours later in San Leandro when police spotted the car he was driving.

An attorney for Burns said the woman's statement has "inconsistencies," that need investigation.